

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE
JAMES R. WILLIAMS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of James R. Williams, the first African American to serve as a Summit County, Ohio Common Pleas judge and a longtime Akron civic and civil rights leader, who passed away on Friday, November 9, 2020, at the age of 88.

Judge Williams was an Akron Municipal Court judge, a member of Akron City Council, and in 1978 was appointed by President Jimmy Carter as U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Ohio. He was appointed to Akron Municipal Court in 1983, and then in 1989 became Summit County's first Black Common Pleas Court judge, subsequently twice winning reelection to the bench.

He was a civil rights leader who was an officer with the Akron and Ohio NAACP branches and other organizations. He was a University of Akron alumnus and a former president of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity that, while he was a member, pioneered housing for low- to moderate-income residents and seniors.

Judge Williams was the principal founder and first chairman of Alpha Phi Alpha Homes Inc., a nonprofit housing, development and management corporation formed in 1966 in Akron by the Eta Tau Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha.

James, a native of Columbus, Mississippi, moved to Ohio following active service with the U.S. Army. He also taught in Akron Public Schools and was a senior staff member for Akron's Department of Planning and Urban Development. He retired as common pleas judge in January 2005, after 15 years on the bench.

Judge Williams was preceded in death by his first wife, Catherine. He is survived by his wife, Jewell Cardwell-Williams; two children, Michael, a former Akron City Council member, and Jacqueline Walton; and four grandchildren.

The Honorable James R. Williams was truly a revered figure in Summit County and Northeast Ohio. Anyone who knew Judge Williams saw him as a man of deep integrity and a man that carried a strong commitment to community. I cannot thank James enough for his service to our country and his service to Akron and Summit County. My deepest condolences go out to the Williams family and to all whose lives were touched by James.

IN HONOR OF JOHN W.
BORNHOLDT

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John W. Bornholdt of Huntingdon County for his service in the United States Air Force. John is an outstanding Pennsylvanian, and I am grateful for his service to our nation, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and our community.

In Pennsylvania and across the country, our veterans have served and sacrificed for Americans' freedom and our values. They answered the call to serve and fight for us—at a great cost. Truly, our veterans are the best of America.

In Congress, it is my privilege—and my responsibility—to stand up for those who have served our country in uniform, as well as to recognize these brave Americans. As a nation, we are indebted to them. On behalf of the 13th Congressional District, I thank John for his service to our nation and our community.

HONORING DR. EARNEST LEE
RANKIN, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Earnest Lee Rankin, Sr. who was born in Simpson County, Mississippi on March 12, 1947, to Eliza Marie Rankin. He was the seventh of eight children.

Dr. Rankin graduated from Harper High School in 1967, in Mendenhall, MS, before attending Prentiss Institute and graduating in 1969. While at Prentiss Institute, he married Dorothy Mikell, affectionately known as "Doris," on March 2, 1969. Dr. Rankin graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Tougaloo College in May 1971.

After attaining the highest score on the Medical College Admission Test in the state of Mississippi, he was accepted into the third integrated class of Medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, MS, in 1971. Dr. Rankin completed a two-year residency in Family Practice at Texas Tech University in Amarillo, TX, and then decided to return home to begin practicing medicine, first in Madison, Leake & Yazoo Family Health Center in Canton, MS, in 1976, and later opening a private practice in Family Medicine in Jackson, MS, circa 1979.

An intelligent, compassionate man of humble beginnings, he believed that everyone should be treated like a human being and was entitled to receive adequate health care. Dr. Rankin provided health care services to countless family members, the poor, the underprivileged, and the "have-nots," finally retiring in 2019, after 43 years of practice.

At an early age, Dr. Rankin joined Mount Zion Hill Baptist Church in Mendenhall, MS. Later in life, under the influence of Bro. Eddie Gates, Sr., he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Dr. Rankin was a member of Mount Wade Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Rev. Cleve Snell. He was an active member of the church for 28 years, serving as Sunday school teacher, deacon, member of the finance board, and wherever else he was needed.

Dr. Rankin lived a full life as a volunteer in the Parchman Penitentiary Prison ministry, an avid and competitive bowler, and a great huntsman who rarely missed deer hunting season (or any other season for that matter). Dr. Earnest Rankin, Sr. held a special place in his heart for his family.

Dr. Rankin is survived by his wife, Mrs. Dorothy Rankin of Jackson, Mississippi; children, Dr. Yolanda A. Rankin, Earnest Rankin,

Jr., Demetira Rankin, Christa Pittman, and Patrick McKinney Rankin.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Earnest Lee Rankin, Sr.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LT. COL.
(RET.) DANNY CURTIS

HON. DAVID LOESACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Mr. LOESACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Lt. Col. Danny Curtis of Hills, Iowa, who passed away on October 24, 2020. Lt. Col. Curtis joined the Army in 1964, serving one tour in Korea and two tours in Vietnam. While in service, he led teams to build Blackhawk helicopters, taught military science at the University of Notre Dame, and received numerous commendations, including one Legion of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, and three Bronze Stars. Lt. Col. Curtis is survived by his son, Clayton (Laura) Curtis, and two grandchildren, Annmarie and Evelyn. He was preceded in death by his wife, Judy Slaughter Curtis, mother Ester Buline Curtis, father Lloyd Curtis, and sister Nina Jean Curtis.

Danny Curtis did not tend to shine a light on his own accomplishments, though numerous they were. Instead, he highlighted experiences that demonstrated the best of man in comradeship. He led by this principle later in life, being a steady advocate and friend to fellow veterans, and a fixture in his community. Known by his friends and family for his wit and his ability to weave a story, he will be greatly missed. So, on this, the week of Veterans day, let us remember his sacrifice, and the sacrifice of all the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

IN HONOR OF KENNETH A.
BOWSER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kenneth A. Bowser of Huntingdon County for his service in the United States Army National Guard. Kenneth is an outstanding Pennsylvanian, and I am grateful for his service to our nation, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and our community.

In Pennsylvania and across the country, our veterans have served and sacrificed for Americans' freedom and our values. They answered the call to serve and fight for us—at a great cost. Truly, our veterans are the best of America.

In Congress, it is my privilege—and my responsibility—to stand up for those who have served our country in uniform, as well as to recognize these brave Americans. As a nation, we are indebted to them. On behalf of the 13th Congressional District, I thank Kenneth for his service to our nation and our community.